

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/27/2022 2:49:10 PM

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Comments: Please conduct a comprehensive inventory of mature and old-growth piñon pine and juniper forests on the Colorado Plateau. ALL old-growth and mature forests, in dryland ecosystems as well as the better-known alpine and Pacific Northwest environments, must be conserved for the benefit of wildlife, air and water quality, climate adaptation, and human beings.

Piñon pine and juniper forests cover 15% of the land area in five states (Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah). They are subject to temperature extremes and limited moisture availability. These forests are often the sole woodland provider of wildlife habitat, vegetative cover, watershed protection, and traditional food and medicine gathering in dryland and arid BLM-managed lands across the West.